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Chief in waiting
South Simcoe Police appoint chief-designate



Done for the season

Final Bradford Christmas market held



Heather Mumford's Grade 3 class at W.H. Day Elementary School in Bradford, pictured with donations on Dec. 21.

Grade 3 students make a difference

Heather Mumford's Grade 3 class at W.H. Day Elementary School in Bradford read the book *Shiloh* - the story of an 11-year-old boy who tries to save an abused dog, by award-winning author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

Mumford, who has a rescue dog from Save Me Dog Rescue, thought it was the perfect opportunity to teach her students they have the power to make a difference "no matter how old they are."

The kids decided to do

something to help abused and neglected animals. They made posters, made up their own school announcements and collected donations of dog food, treats, toys, blankets and Canadian Tire money.

The donations were presented to Tania Rossi D'Allessandro, ambassador for Save Me Pet Rescue, who also talked to the students about the misery caused by puppy mills, and the importance of responsible

pet ownership.

Save Me Dog Rescue is a volunteer-run, registered non-profit organization dedicated to finding homeless and abandoned dogs a loving home. For more information, see saveмедогrescue.ca.

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Police chief-designate announced

Following the announced retirement of South Simcoe Police Chief Rick Beazley, the Bradford West Gwillimbury-Innisfil Police Services Board has announced the appointment of current Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher as chief-designate of the South Simcoe Police Service. Fletcher will assume the role of chief on April 18.

"Andrew Fletcher has been an asset to the South Simcoe Police Service as deputy chief, and we are proud to appoint him to the role of chief-designate," said board chair Rod Hicks, adding Fletcher will "continue to build on the strong foundation established by Chief Beazley. (He) brings a wealth of experience in policing and specific knowledge of our service to the role. The police services board looks forward to working with him to continue to implement innovative solutions and cost-effective community-based policing."

"I'm honoured to be appointed as the next chief of police," said Fletcher. "I

look forward to engaging with and mobilizing our community and other service providers to collaboratively address the changes that face our communities and the police service in the years ahead." Fletcher joined the South Simcoe Police as deputy chief in June 2015. Prior to that, he served as deputy chief for the Halton Regional Police.

Fletcher began his policing career in 1984 in Italon, and has worked in uniform patrol, criminal investigations, tactical unit, drug and morality bureau, homicide unit, and community policing support. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, has been recognized with a Governor General Order of Merit for the Police Forces, and is a recipient of a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He has served on the executive of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police as Zone 4 director, is the current Zone 3 treasurer, and past chair of the organization's community safety and crime prevention committee.

Outside of policing, Fletcher



MICHAEL KING/BRADFORD TIMES

South Simcoe Police Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher, at the launch of a collaborative program with the OSPCA, at Sanger Outlet Mall in Cookstown in August 2015, shortly after joining the service.

is co-chair of the Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership, a member of the Innisfil Rotary Club, a supporter of Special Olympics Ontario, and has coached Youth Soccer. He is a past board member of the Reach Out Centre for Kids, a non-profit, charitable organization that serves children and youth.

The police services board will begin open recruitment for a new deputy chief.

Updating the Official Plan review

MICHAEL KING
Bradford Times

Senior planner Ryan Windle presented a "Christmas present" to council on Dec. 20: an update of Phase 1 of the Official Plan review.

"We're almost there, in terms of our Phase 1," policies addressing seniors' accommodation, downtown revitalization, employment land, and population targets/growth, Windle said. "We're now at the final draft stage."

Among the key policies: no conversion of designated employment land to residential, despite a number of requests and the fact the town has a perceived over-supply of employment land. The OP review calls for the preservation of employment land beyond the 2031 planning horizon, especially since, Windle noted, "conversions are not needed to accommodate residential growth to 2031."

A wider range of uses would be permitted on designated employment land, including outdoor storage.

To meet population targets, the review proposes permitting higher densities in established neighbourhoods, encouraging mixed use and a variety of housing forms, and intensification in the downtown core, especially in the vicinity of the GO train station.

Again, there is no recommendation to expand the Bradford urban boundary. "We don't need these expansions to meet the population target, Windle said. What is needed is "more people living downtown."

The Official Plan is proposing taller buildings and higher densities downtown, in Bradford's "primary intensification and development areas." After listening to input from the public, the consultants have scrapped plans to take some properties out of the core commercial designation and redesignate them as Residential.

Instead, the entire length of Holland Street from Professor Day Drive is seen as an area for intensification, with two- to four-storey buildings permitted in the core (at the

4 Corners), four- to six-storey buildings elsewhere, and six- to eight-storey buildings at the newly designated "gateways" at Holland/Professor Day and Holland/Dixie.

Even taller buildings, up to 10 stories, would be permitted near the GO train station.

As for seniors' housing, "we've contemplated a policy that 20% of development (should be) in forms that broaden choice consistent with the town's changing demographics," Windle said – encouraging the principle of aging in place, and permitting housing for seniors in all except industrial areas.

The draft documents are posted on the town's website, and residents and landowners are invited to comment "right up to the time we present the report."

The final Phase 1 Official Plan update is expected in late January; then the consultants will begin work on Phase 2, which includes heritage conservation, natural environment, agriculture, affordable housing, and sustainable development.

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Treble Makers in concert

JIM NEWMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Treble Makers, a cappella women's ensemble, came to the Bradford Arts Centre (Bradford United Church) for an afternoon concert of seasonal harmonies and carols Dec. 18 – the latest in a series of performances at the new centre for the arts. The church recently received a baby grand piano, which will be available to performers.

New Year's Day Waste Collection

WASTE COLLECTIONS

There will be NO CHANGE to your garbage, organics, and recycling collection day. Have materials at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular day to ensure collection.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES HOURS

All County waste facilities will be closed all day:

**Sunday, January 1, 2017
Monday, January 2, 2017**

Does not apply to residents of Barrie and Orillia.



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**To All Bradford Residents!
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Opinion

The
Bradford Times

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Miriam King, Editor: Ext. 512223
mking@postmedia.com

Point of View

Time for straight talk on carbon pricing

Recent polls have suggested most Canadians support carbon pricing, without explaining what it is and what it does.

Carbon pricing means attaching a cost to something that has never had a cost before – emitting industrial greenhouse gases into the atmosphere when fossil fuels are burned.

Politicians from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on down like to say carbon pricing is a mechanism for making polluters pay for the environmental harm they cause when burning fossil fuels for energy.

They'd also like you to think the polluters who will be paying are giant corporations like oil companies.

The problem is, this isn't true.

When politicians say polluters will pay, they really mean ordinary citizens will pay, because we demand the goods and services fossil-fuel energy produces.

When politicians refer to using carbon pricing to make polluters pay, what they really mean is imposing a carbon fee all Canadians pay.

The two main types of carbon pricing are a carbon tax, which Premier Kathleen Nantley will impose on Albertans as of Jan. 1, and cap-and-trade, which

Premier Kathleen Wynne will impose on Ontarians, also on Jan. 1.

Cap-and-trade is just a carbon tax by another name.

It raises retail prices on most goods and services, as opposed to a carbon tax, which, as that term implies, raises taxes on most goods and services.

In either case, the end result is the same – a higher cost of living for all Canadians, paid either through higher prices or higher taxes on most goods and services.

Years of polling on this issue have shown most people favour carbon pricing and making polluters pay until it's explained to them this means they will be paying more for virtually all goods and services.

When that's made clear, support for carbon pricing typically drops precipitously, with only a minority of those surveyed supporting it.

Real-world experience with carbon taxes (for example, in Norway) and cap-and-trade (for example, in Europe) reveals carbon pricing is much better at growing government revenues than it is at lowering greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change.

Politicians, of course, don't like to talk about that, which is why the rest of us should demand they do.

— Postmedia Network

Surprise!



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Art project? This rainbow tree suddenly appeared behind Bradford District High School, brightening up winter monotonies.

Letters to the Editor

ARE COUNTY FORESTS PROTECTED?

To the editor: Re: Growing the Simcoe County Forest in BWG.

I was interested to read that the county has acquired another property to add to the Simcoe County Forests; however, I am concerned about misrepresentations that were made to the Kirkup family reflected in the statement: "The Kirkup family is most happy to know that the conservation legacy of our parents will continue ... (We) are extremely pleased that this habitat will be preserved for future generations."

And from Simcoe County forester Graeme Davis: "It was important for the (Kirkup) family to see that property preserved and to have it open for public use."

The Kirkup family obviously is not aware that only a few weeks ago, the County of Simcoe submitted a rezoning application to allow for the construction of a garbage depot, organics processing facility and truck servicing facility within a county forest. The county and forester Davis have demonstrated that they see nothing wrong with turning over our agriculturally zoned county forests for industrial purposes.

The siting process for this waste-management facility favoured county-owned lands; almost 50% of the sites selected were county

forests located throughout Simcoe County. Five of the seven sites on the shortlist were county-owned forests. The final preferred site selected in March 2016 was indeed a county forest in Springwater Township, known as the Frede Tract.

The Kirkup family should be made aware that another forest property was placed in the top five of the shortlist shortly after acquisition, where the family approached Simcoe County to have it placed in the forestry program.

I feel that the Frede family likely felt the same confidence, in creating a conservation legacy, as the Kirkups when Mr. Frede sold his 200-acre property to the County of Simcoe in 1948. I am very happy to see a new addition to our county forests, but none of us should allow ourselves the false sense of security, that our precious county-owned forests are protected from being used as cheap land to convert to non-forest uses.

I encourage all residents in the County of Simcoe to speak up for our forests, if you feel that forest lands should not be converted to non-forest uses. Contact David Brunelle of the Rainforest Alliance, dbrunelle@ra.org, 1-514-783-8212, for more.

CINDY MERCER, SPRINGWATER

POSTMEDIA

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2017 police budget approved

MIRIAM KING
Bradford Times

Bradford West Gwillimbury council has unanimously approved the 2017 BWG-Innisfil Police Services Board budget for the South Simcoe Police Service.

The board formally presented the budget to council on Dec. 20. Board chair Rod Hicks highlighted the strategic priorities of the Service, including the development of a 2018-20 business plan, an organizational review to free up officers for front-line duty, an effective suc-

cession plan, the replacement of aging infrastructure to ensure officers have the equipment they need "to do their jobs efficiently and effectively," and a continued emphasis on finding efficiencies to offset increasing costs.

"Our goal is to be proactive," to stay ahead of the demands of a growing population, Hicks said – but challenges include the loss of a \$322,000 hiring grant from the province, and the negotiated 1.9% wage increase.

The result is an operating budget that includes a net 3.26% increase over 2016

– although once growth in assessment is taken into account, the increase for the average homeowner is 26%, if the office of the attorney general reinstates the hiring grant in the spring, the budget could represent a 1.57% decrease over last year, Hicks said.

The board also presented a \$914,281 capital budget, which includes the purchase of a new marine vessel to replace the 15-year-old Wardrop II. The police service is on track for a \$500,000 year-end surplus; applying the surplus to the capital budget would leave a bill of \$414,281,

Hicks noted.

The operating budget is divided between Bradford West Gwillimbury and Innisfil based on a complicated formula that considers population, households and assessment. In 2016, the split was 53% Innisfil, 47% BWG.

The capital budget is split 50/50, which means each municipality would need to find \$207,141 to meet the capital costs.

Council praised the efforts to hold the line on costs. "Two years ago, we were sitting and looking at OPP costing," noted Councillor Raj Sandhu. At the time,

South Simcoe Police promised to be fiscally responsible. "To my mind, at the end of the day, you came through for our residents."

"You have done a fantastic job for our community and Innisfil," Deputy Mayor James Leduc told Police Chief Rick Beazley, whose planned retirement in April was also announced at the meeting. "Thank you for delivering on what you promised years ago."

Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher provided additional details of some of the changes in the salary line items: Administration costs have

gone up due to the hiring of a full-time Inspector, while the cost for front-line officers has decreased – not because there are fewer officers, but because senior staff at the top pay scale have been retiring and have been replaced by new recruits, who are paid less.

"I'm very happy with the budget," said Mayor Rob Kefner, noting the town's share of the capital budget will be covered entirely by supplemental taxes (taxes on new homes that were not on the last tax roll). "The homeowner will be quite happy with the impact of the police budget on the tax bill."

Crime Stoppers Month flag raising

Bradford West Gwillimbury mayor and council have proclaimed January as Crime Stoppers Month in the municipality.

Whereas: Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka was established on January 12, 1987 and became incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization on February

11, 1987, operated by a volunteer Board of Directors that oversees all phases of the program; and

Whereas: Crime Stoppers is not operated by Police, but is a volunteer program operated solely with monies donated from the private sector, businesses, or raised through fundraising efforts; and

Whereas: Crime Stoppers is a program that benefits everyone in the community; the United Nations recognizing Crime Stoppers International in 2005 as a global force against crime and terrorism;

Therefore Be it Resolved: That his Worship Rob Kefner and Members of Coun-

cil proclaim January 2017 as Crime Stoppers Month in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Join the mayor and council for a flag-raising ceremony and celebration of Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka's 30th anniversary on Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. in front of the Bradford Courthouse, 57 Holland St. E.



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Christmas pageant



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Every year, the children at St. John's Presbyterian church don shepherd's robes and angel wings and present their interpretation of the Nativity in drama and song. This year's Christmas pageant took place Dec. 11 at the Bradford church.

BRADFORDTIMES.CA

Christmas Tree Collection

Consult your **2017 Waste Management Calendar**, or the waste collection calendar tool at simcoe.ca to determine your Christmas tree collection weeks.

- Christmas trees must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday of your collection week
- Collection will occur during the week; not necessarily on your garbage day
- Remove plastic tree bags, decorations, and stands
- Maximum size 2 m; if longer, cut into smaller sections
- Ensure your tree is clearly visible and not frozen into snowbanks



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Meetings & Announcements

Town Council

Members of the public are invited to attend all Council, Committee of the Whole and other Committee meetings. Meeting agendas and minutes are available at: bradfordwestgwillimbury.ca/webnet

For further information or to request a deputation, please contact the Clerk's Division at 905-775-5366.

PLEASE NOTE: The January Council meetings have been moved by one week to January 10 and 24, 2017.

Regular Meeting of Council & Committee of the Whole

• Tue. Jan. 10 @ 7:00 p.m. – BWG Library
425 Holland St. W – Zima Room

Special Meeting of Committee of the Whole on Seniors Housing

• Tue. Jan. 17 @ 6:30 p.m. – BWG Library
425 Holland St. W – Zima Room

Board/Committee

Downtown Revitalization Committee

• Wed. Jan. 4 @ 6:30 p.m. – BWG Library
425 Holland St. W – Zima Room

2016-2017 Holiday Closures

Town Administration Offices:

• noon on December 23 through January 2 – closed

BWG Transit:

• January 2 – no service
FREE evening transit will be available on New Year's Eve from December 31 at 5 p.m. until January 1 at 3 a.m. For stops and schedules please see townofbwg.com/transit

2016-2017 Holiday Closures Cont'd

BWG Leisure Centre:

• December 31 – open 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., then 6:00-9:00 p.m. for Family First Night
• January 1 – closed

BWG Public Library:

• December 31 – open 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
• January 1 & 2 – closed

Employment Opportunities

Closing January 13, 2017:

• Leisure Events & Marketing Assistant (11-month contract)

Summer students: Closing January 16, 2017:

- 2017-PM01 – Parks Maintenance Staff
- 2017-DC01 – Day Camp Counsellors
- 2017-HF01 – Inclusion Facilitators
- 2017-EA01 – Leisure Events & Marketing Assistant

Closing January 27, 2017:

- 2017-WW01 – Wastewater Co-op (8 months)
- 2017-EC06 – Engineering Co-op (4-8 months)
- 2016-WC01 – Water Division Co-op (8 months)
- 2016-MD01 – MLEO Co-op (4 months)
- 2016-BC01 – Building Co-op (4 months)
- 2016-EM01 – Emergency Management Co-op (4 months)

Please visit www.townofbwg.com/careers or call 905-775-5366 for more information.

Competitive Bids

To view a complete list of Town of BWG tenders, quotations and proposals or to register as a bidder with the Town, visit: www.bidsingo.com/townofbwg

CELEBRATE SAFELY THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE!

FREE NYE TRANSIT

BWG Transit will offer FREE evening service from December 31 at 5pm until January 1 at 3am.

For details visit www.townofbwg.com/NYEtransit

BWG Transit



OVERNIGHT PARKING ALLOWED ON NYE
Restrictions on winter overnight street parking in BWG are lifted each year on New Year's Eve to encourage responsible celebration and accommodate overnight guests.

IF you drink, please DON'T drive!



Events & Activities

Family First Night

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31
6:00-9:00PM
BWG LEISURE CENTRE

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For more information:
visit www.bwgleisurecentre.ca

Mayor's New Year's Eve

Sunday, January 8, 2017
12:30-3:30pm
BWG Leisure Centre

Celebrate the New Year with the Mayor and Council and kick-off a year of celebrating Canada's 150th birthday!

Featuring:
Free Leisure Skating
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Guest Speakers & Refreshments
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Don't miss out! Registration for all Winter Programs available.

Register now for St. John
Ambulance Programs:
Baby Sitting Basics January 5
Home Alone January 6



Register for the Winter Session
of Swimming Lessons
Classes start January 9



Administration: 100 Dissette St, Units 7-8, Bradford

Arrests for major fraud

York Region – Investigators with the York Regional Police Major Fraud Unit arrested nine people and laid 42 charges in relation to a criminal organization that is said to have bilked businesses, banks and private investors of more than \$30 million.

Investigation began in November 2014 into the activities of John Simmonds and his company, AC Simmonds Group. Police and the Ontario Securities Commission received several complaints from victims, alleging they had been defrauded by John Simmonds and his co-accused. In early 2014, the company BLVD Holdings, one of 80 shell companies registered by Simmonds Group, began the process of acquiring a food-shipping company in York Region. AC Simmonds Group was to purchase the company for \$10 million, but had started

the company and operated it for the past 45 years.

Once Simmonds took control of the business, he allegedly replaced the system for maintaining financial records to misrepresent the financial status of the company – systematically submitting fraudulent documentation from one of his many shell companies and business interests to inflate the value of the company. He used the false information to secure additional money from lenders, creditors and investors, police allege. It is further alleged between April and August 2014, Simmonds funnelled large sums of money out of the existing business to himself, the co-accused and his shell companies to the point of bankrupting the food-shipping company. The total fraud is believed to be more than \$30 million.

Charged is John Simmonds,

65, of King Township. His co-accused include a 57-year-old Nobleton woman, 71-year-old Toronto man, 67-year-old Toronto man, 44-year-old Severn man, 63-year-old Vaughan man, 56-year-old Aurora woman, 67-year-old Mississauga man and 45-year-old Toronto man.

Charges include fraud over \$5,000, conspiracy to commit an indictable offence, using a forged document, fraud (other means), laundering proceeds of crime, possession of property obtained by crime, fraud affecting public market, and false prospectus.

Anyone with information, or who has had business dealings with BLVD Holdings or AC Simmonds Group, is asked to contact Det. Ken Bardal, with York Regional Police Major Fraud Unit, at 866-876-5423, ext. 6671, or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-4477.

Community grants announced

STAFF

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury has announced \$18,730 in community grants, approved through the Community Support Program:

- \$3,000 for the Bradford Arts Centre.

- \$1,695 toward Bradford District High School's commencement ceremony costs.
- \$635 for the Bradford Leo Club's planned teen dance in February.

- \$3,000 for the Bradford Farmers' Market, for new signage and advertising for the 2017 season.

- \$2,000 of the \$3,000 requested by the BWG Community Initiatives for the Bradford Community Meal.

- \$1,500 of \$3,000 requested by the BWG Diversity Group for upcoming events.

- \$500 of the \$1,000 requested by the BWG Local History Association to create historical posters for the sesquicentennial.

- \$1,500 of the \$3,000 requested by CHATS for the Home Safety for Seniors program.

- \$1,500, plus a spare computer for Crossroads Canada's Youth Centre; Crossroads

ers had asked for \$3,000.

- \$1,500 of \$3,000 requested by Human Endeavour for equipment and construction training supplies at the EPIC Training Hub in Bond Head.
- \$1,500 of the \$3,000 requested by My Sister's Place Shelter for support.

- \$400 in bus passes for Simcoe Muskoka Family Connections.

"We did the best we could, giving back to the community," said Deputy Mayor James Leduc. The grants committee had received applications totalling nearly \$50,000.

Mayor Rob Keffer noted although the amount of funding available through the tax-dollars-funded Community Support Program was limited, there is still money available from the Council Community Initiatives Fund (CCIF), money raised by the Mayor's Golf Tournament. In fact, he said, the CCIF has provided funding to a number of groups turned down by the Community Support Program, or that received only a portion of their request.

Among the CCIF grants approved:

- \$1,000 to First Bradford Scouting to offset the costs of attending the Canada Jambo-

ree in 2017.

- \$500 to the Terry Fox Run in Bradford.

- An additional \$1,000 for the BWG Community Initiatives Fund.
- Another \$100 to CHATS Community and Home Assistance to Seniors.

- \$500 to Community Living South Simcoe for new kitchen chairs and a TV at a residence in Bradford.

- \$500 to CONTACT Community Services in support of youth programs.

- \$500 to Rites Portuguese, a children's folklore dance group, to help cover the cost of performances.

Keffer noted the town website identifies October as the deadline for applications to the CCIF, but advised the deadline "is rather flexible," inviting "worthy projects to still submit."

A request for \$10,000 from the Bradford Board of Trade was referred to the office of economic development for consideration in the budget. And a request from Green Valley Alliance Church for a \$3,000 grant to help build an accessible washroom was also turned down, but the town will be covering the cost of the building permit.

Blessings and carols



HOLY MARTYRS, BRADFORD TIMES

Holy Martyrs of Japan Catholic Church held a "blessing of the tree" and carol sing Dec. 17 – an evening of solos and carolling celebrating the season. Father Boniface Perri told the tale of St. Boniface and the Tree of Thor. The saint travelled to a village, where each year the people made sacrifices to the tree on the winter solstice. Despite dire warnings the Norse god would strike him down, St. Boniface chopped down the tree and, when he was unscathed, pointed to a small evergreen that had been hidden by its branches, telling the villagers to "take this tree into your home. Let there not be rites of blood, but rites of kindness and joy" in the spirit of Christmas. An evergreen tree in the sanctuary was blessed and illuminated as parishioners and families sang, "O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, thy leaves are so unchanging..." Perri is shown blessing the tree.

4 pm - Opening Ceremony

5pm - Osteopathic consultations

provided by Larisa Sim, Doctor of Osteopathy

6pm - Treatment Demo

7pm - Treatment Demo

ROMOLA Med
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Nancy's Nifty Nook

Fun for children provided by

Rodnichok Educational Family Centre

BRADFORDTIMES.CA

More driveways on Professor Day Drive

MIRIAM KING
Bradford Times

A public meeting under the planning act was held to consider a zoning bylaw amendment for the 32-hectare vacant property beside Fieldcrest Elementary School on Professor Day Drive.

The proponent, Deland Developments Ltd., has asked the lands be rezoned from future development to residential 1-exemption to permit construction of eight two-storey homes, each with a two-car driveway and garage. The "exemption" would permit wider driveways, and smaller garage widths than are currently permitted on lots of this size.

Town planner Caroline Murphy noted no comments had been received from the public, but the manager of enforcement had raised the issue of on-street parking in the area, which sees a high level of traffic congestion around the elementary school, in the morning and afternoon.

Roy Duhamel, of the Jones Consulting Group, suggested the extra space in the garage and the driveway should ease some parking concerns, providing space for visitors.

Coun. Gary Lamb praised the design of the homes, which shows the garages set back from the road. "I'm excited by the fact that the front stoop is ahead of the garage doors," Lamb said, praising the additional parking proposed.

"It is refreshing to see something different," agreed Coun. Raj Sandhu, but he raised a red flag, asking if the presence of a concrete median on Professor Day Drive would "pose a risk" for homeowners attempting to exit their driveways.

Duhamel noted the turning radius has been reviewed by engineering, and that there are constraints, but he suggested a "warning clause" in the agreement purchase could point out the presence of the median and warn new homeowners they are not allowed to make a U-turn around the median to go north on Professor Day Drive.

The comments were referred to staff for review and a future recommendation to council. There was no mention of options like window streets or back-lane access for the eight homes, at least two of which will be close to the intersection with Blue Dasher Drive.

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*Marketing Magazine July 2015

Driving



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Tree of Life campaign supports women's health

STAFF

Each year, Shoppers Drug Mart chooses a local organization supporting women's health and wellness to be the recipient of money raised through its Tree of Life campaign. For the second year in a row, the local Shoppers raised funds for My Sister's Place, a shelter in Alliston that provides emergency accommodation and transitional housing for abused women and children.

For one month, the Bradford store raised money through used-book sales, the sale of paper leaves that decorated the windows, and registrations for "mystery" goodie bags filled with cosmetics and gifts.

The total raised? "\$4,134 – even better than last year," said Amanda Kelly, Shoppers cash manager.

A donation like the Tree of Life gift "is important any time, but especially at this time of year," said Sheila Cormier, volunteer co-ordinator and administrative assistant at My Sister's Place, who accepted the donation. The shelter is currently full, with at least seven children and their



From left, Bradford Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacist/owner Stephen Hill, Angela Marmara and, at right, Amanda Kelly present donation to Sheila Cormier of My Sister's Place in Alliston on Dec. 20.

mothers finding a safe, temporary place to stay.

Cormier shared a story

of two children at the shelter several Christmases ago, crying that they wanted to

go home because they were afraid Santa wouldn't know where they had gone. Thanks

to donations, My Sister's Place was able to provide gift cards to the mother that let her fulfil her children's wishes – providing Santa could find them after all.

Bringing joys of the season to the deaf-blind

Colourful Christmas lights, freshly fallen snow, the sounds of carollers – these are just a few of the sights and sounds that enhance the holiday season.

But for those with a limited range of senses – such as combined vision and hearing loss – the holiday season can be filled with silence and darkness.

Making Christmas meaningful was a challenge for John's family. Born several months premature, John was given only a 50% chance of survival, and spent his first three months in an incubator, fighting for his life in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Doctors said John could have a number of birth defects, including vision and hearing loss. At the age of two, John was assessed as deaf-blind.

Deafblindness is a combined loss of hearing and vision to such an extent neither hearing nor vision can be used as a means of accessing information, communication or mobility. Online, 95% of what we learn comes from our eyes and ears.

Although deaf-blind and unable to speak, John enjoyed the holiday season during his childhood – sitting on Santa's knee, feeling the textures of Santa's long white beard

and red velvet suit. Growing up, he attended school for the deaf and blind – but after high school, there was a void. John's brothers had already moved away from home; he became "bored and depressed at home," remembered his mom, Anne.

The family wondered if they would be able to give him the same level of independence as his siblings. "Then, one life-changing day, I discovered DeafBlind Ontario Services," said Anne.

In November 2010, John moved into a DeafBlind Ontario Services' residential location in Jackson's Point. With the help of intervenors, specially trained professionals who act as the eyes and ears of the deaf-blind, John was able to choose his own activities, learn valuable life skills and gain work experience as a volunteer at a local restaurant.

However, John was eager to live more independently – a dream that was realized in spring of 2015, when he moved into an apartment, along with a roommate.

To communicate, John uses facilitated typing, where an intervenor physically assists by holding his hand or arm to use an augmentative communica-

tion system (iPad or DynaVox). He then uses one finger to type words on the keyboard.

When asked about his apartment, John told his intervenors "I am happy" and "I feel like a grown-up like my brothers."

Over the years, John has enjoyed bright and colourful Christmas lights. As a child, he would sit mesmerized by the tree; today, he says Christmas lights are still one of his favourite things about the holidays. He enjoys going on drives with his intervenors, looking at the holiday displays in the neighbourhood, with a smile on his face – and is looking forward to spending time over the holidays with his family, and exchanging presents.

Founded in 1989, DeafBlind Ontario Services is a not-for-profit organization that helps deaf-blind individuals increase their independence and improve their quality of life through specialized services. With residential locations and community programs across the province, its services extend into a range of communities, including Inuit. Help make a difference in the life of an individual who is deaf-blind by visiting deafblindontario.com to learn more.

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2940 Sideroad 10, Bradford West Gwillimbury

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Canadian Blood Services
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Police Briefs

Festive RIDE

Festive RIDE programs continue. South Simcoe Police report a ride check in Bradford and Innisfil on Dec. 21 stopped 438 vehicles. Ten drivers were given a roadside screening test – all of whom passed.

Lock it or lose it

A professional can steal a vehicle in 30 seconds. Imagine how quickly a professional can steal your valuables if your car is unlocked or has an open window. Police advise you to park in a well-lit area, roll up your windows and never leave valuables in plain view. Hide valuables in the trunk – and take your keys.

Assault in Newmarket

York Regional Police are asking for help in identifying a suspect who assaulted a man in front of a Newmarket bar on Oct. 10. Shortly after 10:30 p.m., police were called to the bar in the vicinity of Davis Drive and Main Street for a report of a fight. When they arrived, they located a 51-year-old man suffering from serious injuries. Investigation

revealed the altercation had occurred in the parking lot, when a male suspect smashed a beer bottle in the victim's face, before fleeing. Police now have video surveillance of a suspect, and are asking for the public's assistance. See you.be/gLmZ5p4E to view. The suspect is described as male, white, heavy build, 5'10" to 6', goatee, wearing a dark-coloured T-shirt, pants and carrying a grey jacket. Anyone with information is asked to contact #1 District Criminal Investigations at 866-876-5423, ext. 7141, or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477.

Collision

At approximately 10:33 a.m. on Dec. 18, on Line 7 Bradford West Gwillimbury in Brad Head, police were called to a collision. A motorist backing out of a driveway failed to yield to traffic on Line 7, and collided with a westbound vehicle. Both vehicles were heavily damaged; neither driver was injured. The driver pulling out her driveway was charged for failing to yield to through traffic. Speed was not a factor, police determined.

Farewell from the farmers' market

MIRIAM KING
Bradford Times

It was farewell for the season, from the vendors at the Bradford Farmers' Market.

The final indoor Christmas market of the year took place Dec. 17 at the BWG Public Library, an opportunity to pick up root vegetables and other fresh produce, home-made jams and preserves, Empire Cheese, Sheldon Creek Dairy products, the sweet treats of Sweet Annabelle's and Sweet Handmade.

There were buttery popcorn trees from the Gluten Free Shoppe, traditional Polish baking ranging from rye bread to bagels, and crafts including the lights and decorations of Sassy Gal Creations, turned wooden bowls, hand-made jewelry and suncatchers, and felted wool mitts.

For Rob and Rosemarie Radcliffe of Lakeview Gardens, the end of the market means a much-needed break from retail sales, but not from work. "We've got all the seed catalogues in," said Rob, and they are already planning the spring planting.

"It's been a good year," he said, issuing a final "thank you

– more than thank you" to his customers.

While the Bradford Farmers' Market is closed for the season, some of the vendors will continue to sell at other markets. Michael Baruch is bringing Sheldon Creek Dairy

to the St. Lawrence Market in Toronto. Rick Nadeau, of Everything Maple and More, has signed up for the Terra-at-Home winter market.

"At the end of the season, I get sad – we're like a community here," said Nadeau. He and

company founder Tracy Moore wished all of their customers "a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Looking forward to seeing you in the spring, when it's maple syrup season."

The Bradford Farmers' Market will return in May.



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Festive decorations at Sassy Gal Creations at the final market of the year.



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Laura Vre of Sweet Handmade entertained at the final market of the year.



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Rosemarie Radcliffe of Lakeview Gardens, with jams, preserves and pickles at the final market.



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Buttery popcorn Christmas trees from the Bradford Gluten Free Shoppe at the farmers' market.

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bradfordtimes.ca

Bellegence punished

Creativity finds an

Yours Truly Country Store offers more

DAY NEWS

AGRS

Bradford Valley Christmas bazaar



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Bradford Valley Care Community held its annual Christmas bazaar Nov. 26, with vendors offering gift ideas from Avon, Scentsy, Steeped Tea and Jammy Nails, but also crafts, hand-crafted jewelry, hand knitting and baked treats to tempt shoppers. The event helps raise funds for the residents' council and special events and activities at the Care Community, located on the 6th Line of Bradford West Gwillimbury. Mom Brittany and daughter Madelyne, 7, are pictured at left with "Daddy To Build" crafts at the bazaar.

Community Listings

FRI., DEC. 30

CHRISTMAS BRADFORD COUNT: Join the bird count in Bradford West Gwillimbury. twbco2@gmail.com for information.

SAT., DEC. 31

BRADFORD FIRST NIGHT CELEBRATION: Come to the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave. in Bradford, for Family First Night. 6-9 p.m. presented by Tim Hortons. There will be free skating and swimming, inflatable obstacle courses and games in the gym, strolling entertainers, music, balloons, a photo booth and more, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Then the action moves outside for a concert by David Cowan Fraser and Special K at Sunshine Square, followed by Fireworks.

FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE: Innisfil Community Events Corporation hosts a family New Year's Eve event at the Innisfil Recreation Complex, 5 to 7 p.m. - with free skating, free swimming, hot dogs, refreshments, draws and prizes, followed by Fireworks in the south parking lot.

NOON YEAR'S EVE: Innisfil Ideal AG & Library holds a family party to celebrate the end of 2016 and arrival of 2017, with stories, songs and crafts, and a countdown at noon. At the Cookstown branch and Lakeshore Branch on Dec. 31, from 11 a.m. to noon. Please pre-register at any Innisfil library.

BARRIE'S DOWNTOWN COUNTDOWN: From 6 to midnight, at Barrie City Hall enjoy skating on the Circle, horse-drawn wagon rides, Snow Valley mini-tube slide, street performers, Carabella the Clown, food vendors and more. Live music includes Splash 'n Boots - followed by fireworks

for the wee ones; entertainment continuing with Cardinal St. and Sloan. Second fireworks display will begin in 2016 to share. For info see simcoeblogs.com.

DOWN EAST NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND DANCE: At the Bradford Legion, 115 Back St. Roast Beef Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Dance with The Cruisers at 8 p.m., Late Night Snack. \$65 per person, \$80 per couple. Call Alice, 905-775-6245 or Dianne, 705-424-9378.

NEW YEAR'S GALA AT THE PCOB: Portuguese Cultural Centre Gala, with Banda Lusa, dinner that includes soup, salad, steak, chicken breast and shrimp - plus a bottle of champagne per table, and midnight buffet. Tickets: \$85 adults, \$35 children 7-12, \$15 for tots, for members. (Non-members \$300 adults, \$45 children, \$20 tots). 905-252-1859, 905-775-3254 or 905-775-4938.

SUN., JAN. 1

BRADFORD LEGION PRESIDENT'S LEVEE: Drop in to the Bradford Legion Branch 521 at 115 Back St. in Bradford, from 1 to 3 p.m. Enjoy free refreshments, and learn more about the Legion.

LEVEE AT THE DANUBE CENTRE: The President and Executive of the Danube Seniors Leisure Centre welcome Seniors and the new year with free refreshments, at a New Year's Levee. All welcome. Find out more at the Centre.

SAT., JAN. 7

SIMCOE COUNTY BRANCH ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETS: 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints, 79 Ferris Lane in Barrie. AGM and Show & Share meeting. Bring what you have learned in 2016 to share. For info see simcoeblogs.com.

CHRISTMAS BRID COUNT FOR KIDS: At the Trillium Centre for Conservation, 8155 - Line 8, Essa, 9 a.m. to noon. Mini workshop on bird identification, followed by a Bird Count Hike through the Trillium. See www.nvca.on.ca to register; \$5 advance, \$6 at the door, free for kids under 3. Includes parking and hot chocolate.

SUN., JAN. 8

BWG MAYOR'S LEVEE: At the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave. 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Includes free leisure skating, musical entertainment by local artists, refreshments, balloons. 12:30-3:30 p.m. Formal presentation and launch of the Town's Canada 150 Celebrations start at 2:30 p.m. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS TREE BONFIRE: Dispose of your Christmas tree on Jan. 8, 5 to 8 p.m. at Innisfil Community Church, 1557 Innisfil Beach Road. The Church, Innisfil Fire & Rescue and Innisfil Rotary Club partner on this great community event. Trees can be dropped off at the church until Jan. 7. Hot chocolate will be available. For info, call 705-435-1611.

MEETINGS

COMMUNICATION GROUP FOR PEOPLE WITH APHASIA: A weekly communication group for people with Aphasia is held every Friday, 9-11 a.m., at the Harmonies for Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, in the Saddon Health & Wellness

Centre at Georgian College's Barrie Campus (Room M233). No cost. For information, contact Brittany MacKichan, Communicative Disorders Assistant, at bmacikhan@mcchill.com or the HASHL Clinic, 705-722-1561.

AL ANON: Meets Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Holy Marys of the Holy Marys, 167 Essa St. in Bradford. For more information, www.alanon.alatnon.org, www.alanon.org or call 1-888-441-ANON.

FRIENDS IN EXCELLENCE: Friends in Bradford (Euclure) is a new club for people interested in playing Euclure, in Bradford and surrounding areas. No membership fees/costs. The Club plays every 3rd Friday. Contact fib@rogers.com for info.

SPEAK FOR SUCCESS YORK-SIMCOE TOASTMASTERS: Meets every 2nd, 4th and 5th Tues. of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave., upstairs in the Multi-purpose room. All welcome. www.speakforsuccess.org

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP: Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave., upstairs in the Multi-purpose room. All welcome. www.speakforsuccess.org

CHATS CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP: Meets the 1st and 3rd Thurs. of each month at CHATS in Bradford, 448 Holland St. W., at 10 a.m. For info, contact Marc Terrance, 1-866-677-9048 ext. 6026.

CHATS SENIORS WELLNESS PROGRAM: Meets Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Bradford Legion, 115 Back St. Includes health and wellness education, nutritious lunch, gentle exercise and fun activities. \$5. For info, contact Laura, 905-715-1767.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Springdale Christian Reformed Church
1486 Sideroad #6, Bradford,
905-775-3731
Sundays 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Sunday School & Nursery
Pastor: Paul van der Linde
www.springdalecnc.net

Bond Head United Church
Lungway Road, Bond Head
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1221 County Rd. 18
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"And now I will show you a most excellent way - love." 1 Cor. 13.

Trinity Anglican Church
C-82 Church St., Bradford
(Corner of Church & James St.)
Sunday Service, 10 am
Sunday School, 10 am
905-775-2200
trinityanglicanchurchbradford.com

St. John's Presbyterian
2940 - 10th Sideroad
(8th Line & Midlandton SR)
905-775-7274
Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery provided.
stjohnspresbyterian.ca

Bradford Islamic Community Centre
offer
Friday Prayer Service
• Time: 3:30 PM
• At: Bradford Islamic Community Centre -
(130 Bedford St. East & 4 Bedford St. West)
• All Muslims, women & kids are invited
• Please contact at bradfordislamic@gmail.com
for further details.

St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church
721 Seneca Rd, Bradford
Orthodox Services
Lungway Sunday & Feast
Days 10:00 am
Priest: 905-715-0105

Holland Marsh Christian Reformed Church
18250 Steeles St. R11, 4th Newmarket
Sundays 10:00 am & 5:30 pm
Sunday School & Nursery with services
Mid-week youth & adult programs
Rev. Richard Boon
905-775-7291
E: hollandmarshcnc@rogers.com

St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church
(Bywaterline Hill)
18 Hearn St. Bond Head, Bradford East
8:30am (Lenten), 11:00am (Regular)
905-775-6382
info@stcatherineofalexandria.ca

Iglesia Hispana de Bradford
7586 Simco Rd. Bradford
Pastor: Juan Carlos Espino
Wed. 7:30 pm Bible Study
Sun: 1:00 pm Worship Service
Contact: 416-723-6670
www.iglesiabradfordbradford.com

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
53 Miller Park Ave., Bradford
905-775-3412
Sunday Service:
10:30 a.m.

Holy Martyrs of Janina Catholic Church
167 Essa St. Bradford 905-775-2065
Masses
Sat: 8:00 p.m., Sun: 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m.,
11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Confessions
1/2 hour before Sunday mass.

Bradford United Church
66 Barrie St.,
905-775-7268
Service - 10 am
Sunday School Available
www.bradfordunited.com

Bradford Community Church
Mid-week small group
905-775-4698, located on the S.E.
corner of Hwy 11 & Conc. #9
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Nursery - Bath to 3 yrs. Children - 4 to 12 yrs.

Riverdive Bible Chapel
905-836-1798
#20248 Bethesda (North of Hwy 11)
11:00 am - Family Bible Hour
1:00 pm Afternoon Bible Study
7:30 pm Wed. - Prayer - Bible Study

Greater Life Community Church
2940 Sideroad 10, Bradford
(Sideroad 10 & Line 8)
Sunday Worship 2:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 pm
www.greaterlifecentre.com

Alhadiyya Muslim Jama'at
Friday Prayer Service: 1:30pm
at "Hadeeq Ahmadi"
3999 10th Sideroad
led by Imran Iqbal Ahmad
For further details, contact
Imam Bilal (947-463-9652)

Bradford Baptist Church
3224-10th Sideroad
(2 km north of Holland St. W.)
9 am - Serviço Português
10:30 am - English Service
Sunday School/Pre-School Care
2:30 pm - Serviço Espanhol
Mid-Week Youth Program
905-775-2799 www.bcbcad.ca

Iglesia Bautista Castellana De Bradford
3224-10th Sideroad
Pastor: Edgardo Pեսco
Sundays 2:30pm
Wed: 7:30am or 8:30am de la
palabra en hogares
905-775-9213

Taking potluck with the garden club



The Bond Head Horticultural Society, based in the Bond Head-Bradford Garden Club, held its final event of the 2016 season Dec. 8 - its annual Christmas potluck dinner at the Danube Seniors Leisure Centre. The club will take a break until spring, meeting again in March.

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The gift of life

IAN MCINROY
Postmedia Network

COLLINGWOOD — Brian Seath has the best Christmas present ever: his life.

The Collingwood resident is alive today thanks to the generosity of a family he may never know and the efforts of the Trillium Gift of Life Network, which helps connect organ donors to those needing life-saving donations.

Seath, who has been physically active all his life, learned he suffered from an enlarged heart and was told in March 2013 that he needed a transplant.

"It got to the point where I couldn't walk up a set of stairs and I was short of breath. I think my heart was functioning at about 11%, he said.

"But I was able to go on the waiting list. I was still strong enough to withstand the operation, but sick enough to need a heart."

Since the transplant, Seath has been able to take part in dragon boat racing and hiking, as well as cross-country and downhill skiing.

"I'm on my third Christmas that I wouldn't have had if I hadn't had the operation in summer of 2013," he said. "There are so many peo-

ple on a waiting list and so many who don't make it.

"I'm celebrating Christmas with my family and it wouldn't have happened without the Life Network."

There are more than 1,500 people in Canada waiting for an organ transplant, according to Jennifer Long, of the Trillium Gift of Life Network.

"Every three days, someone will die waiting. Everyone is a potential organ and tissue donor, regardless of age or medical condition," she said.

Seath said he will be forever grateful.

"You think of it every day and

how somebody's family could make it possible during what is probably the worst time of their lives," he said of the donor's family.

"I do a lot of hiking in the winter and I think of my donor and that I'm able to continue on with this," Seath added. "Every day you reflect on this."

"During this holiday time, you know somebody is missing someone but somebody is not missing me."

To learn more, visit theadonor.ca and talk to your family about your wishes.

mcinroy@postmedia.com



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LOCAL VEGETABLE FARM in Holland Landing requires labourers to maintain and harvest their vegetables for the 2017 growing season. Beginning approximately 15th of April to the end of November. Must be highly motivated, and be able to physically handle long hours and manual labour, endure various weather conditions. Tractor and forklift experience required. Full time, \$11.40/hour please submit resume by email (only) to info@bavfarm.com. Only those chosen will be contacted for an interview.



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GOODYEAR Farm Limited
Local Vegetable Farm in York & Durham region requires farm labourers to manually cut fresh vegetables for the 2017 growing season. Beginning approx. 1st of June to end of October. Must be highly motivated and able to physically endure various weather conditions. Full time, \$11.40/hour. Please submit resume by fax to 905-478-5832. Only those chosen will be contacted for an interview.

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- Unknown

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

LANE, Susan - Peacefully passed away at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket on Thursday, December 22, 2016. Sue Lane (nee Schell) of Bradford at 58 years of age. Beloved mother of Gregory (Alexandra), Cherished daughter of late Bill and late Irene Schell. Dear sister of Mike and Karen. Dear niece of Erni Masiek. John (Janet) Masiek and late Helen (Paul) Hawton. Sue will also be fondly remembered by nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. Friends may call at **SKWARCHUK FUNERAL HOME**, 30 Simcoe Rd., Bradford for visitation on Thursday, January 5, 2017 from 12 noon until the time of a celebration of Sue's life at 1:00 p.m. In Sue's memory, donations may be made to the OSPCA.

SZOLDATITS, Louis (Lajos) - It is with broken hearts that his family announces his passing on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket with family at his side at 84 years of age. Louis came to Canada at the age of 17. He courageously left his parents Anna & Ferenz in Hungary for a new journey. He devoted his life to his loving wife Margaret (Bodo) of 48 years, his daughters Erika (Jerry Little) & Linda (Chris Gullison) who know him as larger than life & as an adoring Nanyappa to his grandchildren Niko, Pato, Ava, Jesse, Skyler & Dylan. Dear brother of late Bela (Jesse Rozsly, late Janos, Karlo (Mario), Aranka (late Bill), Anna (late Lajos) and late Alforz (Marika). Dear brother in law of Janos (Maria), & Irma (Tarnesi). He settled on the Holland Marsh & created a life for himself & his family, working the vegetable fields he called home. A proud farmer who shared his warm & gentle nature with every person & animal. His love lives on in his beautiful light. Friends called at **SKWARCHUK FUNERAL HOME**, Bradford for visitation on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at the Holy Marys of Japan Church, 167 Essex St., Bradford at 12 noon, interment, Holy Marys Cemetery, Bradford. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Southlake Regional Health Centre in his memory.

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A Loving Tribute



Stylist Brittany Buck demonstrates the process of creating curls, using her mom, Christine, as a model, at Brittany Buck Hair and Beauty Boutique in Bradford on Nov. 30.



The Brittany Buck Beauty team, at the Learn to Curl Your Hair event in Bradford on Nov. 30.



Learn to curl for the holidays

Staff

Bounce. Longevity. Loose or tight curls.

The talk was all about style and curling irons during the Learn to Curl Your Hair workshop after

hours at Brittany Buck Hair and Beauty Boutique Nov. 30.

Curls are "holiday hair," said Brittany Buck, "and a lot of people struggle, manoeuvring their trons at home." The goal of the workshop was to show

women "how to use their own tools" to create a festive look for the holidays.

Forty women signed up and brought their irons, watching as Buck demonstrated how to curl hair, using her mom,

Christine, as a model. Hair and Beauty Boutique stylists then helped the participants use what they had seen and heard. It was a hands-on evening of fun that included refreshments, acoustic music by Aria Eden

and Carmen, as well as holiday specials, a promise of a free spa shampoo and blow dry with the purchase of any gift card, and a chance to win a basket of hair products worth \$180.

And there was the oppor-

tunity to support a cause: Admission was by donation, with all of the toys, non-perishable food and gifts going to the Helping Hand Food Bank to provide families in need with a merrier Christmas.

Briefs

Transitioning to high school

Bradford District High School hosts an information session for Grade 8 students and their parents, to help with the transition to high school. The information night will take place on Jan. 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Nantyr Shores Secondary School in Innisfil is hosting its Grade 8 info night on Jan. 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The evenings will provide an overview of high-school life and the opportunities available, including co-op, dual credit, e-learning, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, and specialist high-skills majors in the Simcoe County District School Board. See scsb.on.ca/schools/pages/highschool.aspx for information.

Status quo at the county

There will be status quo at the County of Simcoe for the next two years, but with two Wardens Gerry Marshall and Deputy Warden Terry Dowdall returned to their positions. Marshall, mayor of Penetanguishene, was

first elected warden in 2014. He was acclaimed at the Dec. 13 meeting of county council. Dowdall, mayor of Essex Township, was also re-elected for a second term. The county has 16 member municipalities.

Help our horses

With the cold weather here, the horses and ponies available for adoption through the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) require a little extra care to stay warm and healthy. You can help by donating a gift card to Greenhawk Farm and Equestrian Supplies. The contribution will go toward

purchasing much-needed supplies to care for equine friends while they wait to find a new family. Gift cards can be mailed to OSPCA provincial office, attn: Tonya Martin, 16586 Woodbine Ave., Stouffville, ON, L4A 2W3 – or donate toward the care of a horse or pony through the OSPCA Paws and Give virtual giving catalogue.

Free exercise course for teens

eLifestyle Health Advocates, a not-for-profit focusing on fitness for teens (ages 12 to 19), has received a ParticipACTION grant that will allow the organization to offer a free teen exercise program. The new teen exercise course will offer full-body resistance and bodyweight training, introducing the principles of exercise and active living. The results will include better balance, co-ordination, mobility,

healthy weight management, and increased activity levels – promoting a healthy body image while teaching teens how to exercise safely and effectively in a gym environment.

The course will be offered Jan. 10, 12, 17 and 19 at 3:45 p.m. (after school) in the Zina Room at the BWG Public Library, 425 Holland St. W. To register, email leah@ellifestyle.ca or call 416-841-2196.

Ham supper

Bradford United Church hosts a ham supper on Jan. 14 from 4:30 to 7 p.m., with continuous serving of ham and scalloped potatoes, vegetables, salads, rolls, dessert, tea, coffee or juice.

Cost is \$16 for adults, \$8 for children. Tickets are available in advance by calling 905-775-7258, or at the door. Call in advance to arrange for take-out. The church is located at 66 Barrie St.

BWG's New Year's Levee

Celebrate the new year with Bradford West Gwillimbury's mayor and council, and kick off a year-long celebration of Canada's 150th. The second annual Mayor's New Year's Levee will take place on Jan. 8 at the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave. in Bradford, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The event starts with free leisure skating from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., and includes musical entertainment by local artists,

refreshments, and balloons. The formal presentation takes place at 2:30 p.m. Residents are invited to this free event.

"Last year's levee was a tremendous success, bringing together residents and visitors to celebrate the new year and the 25th anniversary of the amalgamation of BWG," said Mayor Bob Kellner. "We decided it was a tradition well worth continuing."

Family First Night celebrations

First Night in BWG

Bradford West Gwillimbury hosts its fifth annual First Night Celebration, presented by Tim Hortons, Dec. 31 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the BWG Leisure Centre. There will be free leisure swimming and skating, inflatable obstacle courses and games in the gym, stage shows, strolling entertainers, balloons, live music, a photo booth and more. The indoor activities end at 8:30 p.m., followed by a mini-fireworks show at 9 p.m. In between, David Cavan Fraser and Special K entertain in Sunshine Square with their family-friendly sing-along. For information, see events@townofbwg.com.

Family New Year's Eve

Family New Year's Eve at the Innisfil Recreation Complex, hosted by the non-profit Innisfil Community Events Association, includes a free skate, free swim, hot dogs and refreshments, draws and prizes from 5 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 31. Followed by fireworks in the south parking lot.

Neon Year's Eve

The Innisfil idealAB and Library's Neon Year's Eve – a family party celebrating the end of 2016 and the start of 2017, with stories, songs, crafts and a countdown at home – will take place at the Cookstown library and at the Lakeshore branch, 967 Innisfil Beach Rd., on Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to noon. Pre-register at any Innisfil library.

Barrie's Downtown Countdown

From 6 p.m. to midnight on Dec. 31, at Barrie City Hall, enjoy skating on the Circle at City Hall, horse-drawn wagon rides, Snow Valley mini-tube slide, street performers, Clarabella the Clown, a hockey shootout, food vendors and more. Live music starts with a family show, and a performance by Splash N Boots, followed by fireworks for tots. Entertainment continues with Cardinal Street, and Sloan. A second fireworks display takes place at midnight to ring in the new year. Barrie Transit will be free from 5 p.m. until 3 a.m.

Happy New Year!

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